

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 10 is amended and new claim 11 is added.

In section 1 on page 2, the Office Action rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 10 is amended to recite a computer-readable medium. It is respectfully submitted that a computer-readable medium constitutes statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. For at least the foregoing reason, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §101, be withdrawn.

In section 2 on pages 3-6, the Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,498,656 to Mastie et al. (hereinafter "Mastie"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mastie discloses a network printing system in which a print job is provided by a logical printer (e.g., printer manager 6), and subsequently, one physical printer is selected by the logical printer among a plurality of physical printers capable of printing the print job, on the basis of the status information for these physical printers stored in a storage device 10 in advance (e.g., the status of print queues concerning a plurality of physical printers capable of printing the print job), and subsequently, the above print job is sent to the selected physical printer, especially as shown in Fig. 1.

In contrast, according to the subject matter recited in claims 1-10, association information is configured to associate information of a distribution destination with information of a printing apparatus used in the distribution destination by means of an association information holding unit, etc., unlike the disclosure and teachings of Mastie. Therefore, a specific printing apparatus can be located on the basis of the association information, and the print condition can be set when a request to print out printed data is outputted to the distribution destination from a sender. Further, the information of the

distribution destination can have information of a user who uses the specific printing apparatus associated by the association information holding unit, unlike the disclosure and teachings of Mastie.

It is respectfully asserted that the above description demonstrates that the subject matter recited in claims 1-10 is not disclosed, taught or suggested by Mastie.

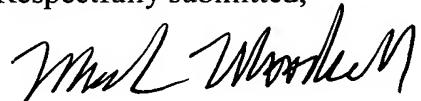
For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1-10 as being anticipated by Mastie, be withdrawn.

Claim 11 is allowable for reasons similar to the reasons stated above in connection with claims 1-10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: January 25, 2006

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